

Copy to FCC

MM Docket No. 95-176

RECEIVED

George Adams III
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Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Dec. 26, 1996

DEC 13 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

NAME: FCC

ADDRESS: 1919 M St. N.W.

CITY: Washington, D.C. 20554

STATE/ZIP CODE:

ATTN: Chairman Reed E. Hundt

Dear Sir:

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Here on the market, there are high technology of REAL TIME CLOSED CAPTIONING. Must get a stenographer to type in all data into the computer in order to have alive Closed captioning.

Especially with the Weather Channel and other local news of different TV stations, alive TV news report, and weather report don't provide fully Real Time Closed Captioning to let the deaf community be aware when to excavate the area, when the Hurricane or tornado come to our site. Line 21 doesn't always provide the accurate information to the deaf community.

The Deaf community urge all movie productions, Cable TV stations and TV networks throughout the U.S. to have 100% real time closed captioning. Also make the Advertisements being shown on TV or other programs regularly to pay for the expenses of Real Closed Captioning as shown. It won't cost them that much.

We deaf community would like to see all the local news including the weather report, talk shows, or medical reports with someone calling from outside to the local news should ALL TV STATIONS have real time closed captioning.

Try to turn off your TV volume off for ONE MONTH and see if you understand their communication. That's what you are doing to the deaf community. It is time for YOU now to move up or upgrade your technology to Real Time Closed Captioning. Well you will say it costs too much, well the deaf per person throughout U.S. has to spend \$2,500-\$3,000 on essential devices to live standard living. We MUST have those devices, no matter what the costs.

Hope you will give alot of consideration to this matter from bottom of your hearts.

Please response to this letter and let us know what you will decide to do.

THOSE PEOPLES BELOW SIGNED BELOW SUPPORT THIS CAUSE:

- cc: FCC, 1919 M St. N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20554
- cc: Time Warner Cable, 115 Perimeter Center Plaza Suite 550,
Atlanta, Ga. 30346
- cc: Weather Channel, 2600 Cumberland Park, Atlanta, Ga. 30039
- cc: WPDE Channel 15, Diversified Communication, 3215 S. Cassia Dr,
Florence, S.C. 29501
- cc: WBTW, Spartan Radiocasting Co., P.O. Box 1717, Spartanburg, S.C. 29304
- cc: WECT, New Vision Television, Inc., P.O. Box 4229, Wilmington, N.C. 28406

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George Adams

NCI

*Buddy
Huggins*

*(20 to
captioning)*

**Contact: Karen O'Connor
(703) 998-2465 (Voice/TDD)
Director, Local Captioning Services**

LOCAL NEWS CAPTIONING FACT SHEET

How many television stations closed caption their local newscasts?

To date, nearly 200 stations caption at least one local newscast for their deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers.

What is the reason for the growth in local news captioning?

Television stations have a responsibility to all of their viewers. An ideal way to serve deaf and hard-of-hearing people is by closed captioning. Advances in captioning technology is another reason for more and more stations captioning local news.

Is NCI involved in local news captioning?

Yes. NCI formed a department of local news in 1987 to assist stations in implementing local news captioning. Some of the department's duties include: contracting with stations to real-time caption local newscasts; providing information to stations and deaf and hard-of-hearing people on the technologies, costs, and equipment; coordinating promotional activities with TeleCaption decoder dealers; and conducting decoder subsidy programs with stations that caption. NCI has initiated local news captioning for the following stations: WJLA/Washington, DC; KGTV/San Diego, CA; WWOR/New York, NYC; WGGB/Springfield, MA; KVIA/El Paso, TX; WIVB/Buffalo, NY; WFAA/Dallas, TX; WTEN/Albany, NY and KABC/Los Angeles, CA.

How do stations caption local news broadcasts?

There are two different ways stations can caption local news: real-time and electronic newsroom captioning. Electronic newsroom captioning is the way most stations caption local news.

What is real-time captioning?

NCI developed real-time captioning in 1982 and uses it to caption several live programs each day including "ABC's World News Tonight," "Nightline," and "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

Real-time captioning creates captions instantaneously. Trained court reporters listen to the

program as it is broadcast and phonetically type the dialogue into a steno machine. The steno machine is connected to a computer which deciphers the strokes and forms them into captions. Captions are data linked to the broadcaster's control room where they are encoded onto the signal. Captions appear on the television screen 2-3 seconds after the words are spoken.

What is the advantage of real-time captioning?

The advantage of real-time is that it is comprehensive - all portions of the newscast are captioned.

Do most stations choose real-time captioning for local news?

No. Cost is a major factor in real-time captioning because the technology is labor intensive.

How do stations fund real-time captioned local news?

The television stations that caption local news with a real-time system usually have solicited outside funding to sponsor the captioning.

What is electronic newsroom captioning?

Electronic newsroom captioning is a relatively new technology. With electronic newsroom captioning, all news scripts that are entered into the newsroom teleprompter are converted into closed captions.

What are the advantages of electronic newsroom captioning?

The advantages to electronic newsroom captioning are that all of the station's newscasts can be captioned and the technology is inexpensive once the station has made the capital investment to computerize its newsroom. Purchasing the captioning software and hardware is a one-time expense of about \$15,000.

What are the disadvantages of electronic newsroom captioning?

One disadvantage is that only prescribed portions of the newsroom are captioned. Live remote segments are not captioned. Also, in some cities, the sports anchor and weathercasters do not always use scripts, so these portions may not be captioned.

In addition, sometimes the quality of electronic newsroom captioning is less than adequate. Captions can roll up too fast, making it very difficult for the viewer to read.

Do most stations use electronic newsroom captioning for local news?

Yes. More than 80% of the stations currently offering captioned local news use this technology.

Is there any other equipment a station needs to closed caption local news broadcast?

Yes. A station needs a smart encoder which inserts the captions onto Line 21 of the broadcast signal. A smart encoder costs \$6,300.

What can I do to get captioned local news in my city?

Contact the general manager at the stations in your city. Many stations have begun captioning because they have received requests from deaf and hard-of-hearing people. Write letters and send petitions to let the stations know that there are closed-caption viewers in your area. Attached are samples of letters and petitions which you may want to use.

NCI
Asked for a Co. that sells used encoder and software